



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 15 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
E-19J

Stevan J. Christiansen, District Ranger  
St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie Ranger Districts  
Hiawatha National Forest  
W1900 W. US 2  
St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Niagara Project, St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie  
Ranger Districts, Hiawatha National Forest, Chippewa and Mackinac Counties, Michigan  
EIS No. 20090449

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections" to the Draft EIS in our August 10, 2009 letter. The Draft EIS analyzed impacts associated with three action alternatives. We had no substantive comments related to these action alternatives. The ROD indicates that Alternative 2 was selected for implementation. Based on our review of the Final EIS and the ROD, we maintain our lack of objections. By implementing Forest Plan standards and guidelines as well as project design features, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at [kowal.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:kowal.kathleen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Kenneth A. Westlake  
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS, Milwaukee, WI